

# NEWSLETTER No 15

Spring 2018

## Welcome!

Welcome to this, the latest of the newsletters from Churches Together in Cheshire. As before I seek to include both news items and notices of ecumenical activities and events that are taking place within Cheshire, and also information relating more widely to the ecumenical scene across the country. .

You will find my contact details at the end of this Newsletter, and if you wish any future edition to include reports of what has been happening in your neck of the woods, or to advertise any forthcoming event I would be pleased to hear from you

Andrew Taylor

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

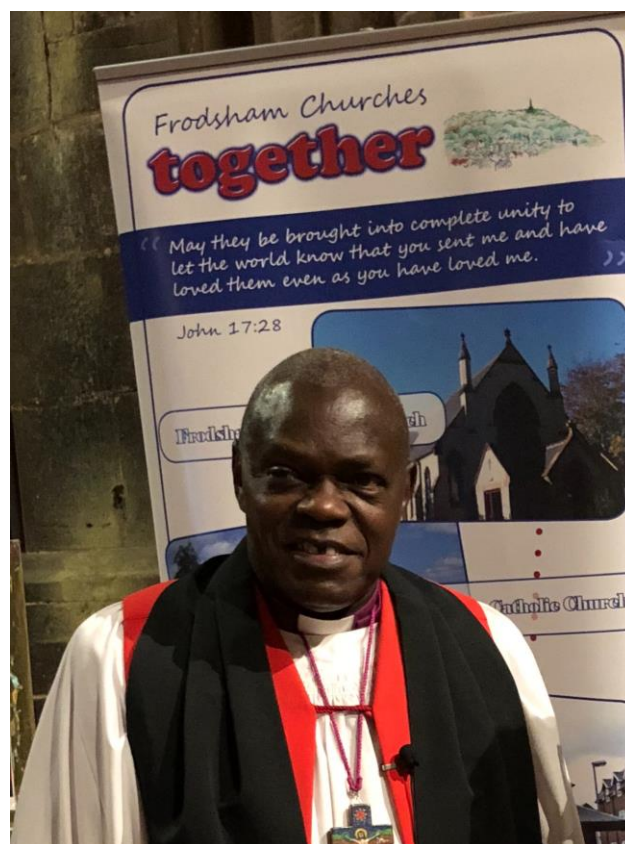
The Churches Together in Cheshire service for the Week of Prayer was held on 21<sup>st</sup> January at Chester Cathedral, when the preacher was the Archbishop of York, the Rt. Revd. Dr. John Sentamu.

That the Churches of the Caribbean had prepared the material for the Week of Prayer was marked by the contributions both of a steel band, who played before and during the service and of the West Indian leaders of the New Testament Church of God in Crewe, Pastor David Edwards, Dr. Linda Edwards and Mr Dalton Haughton, who read the lessons and introduced the hymn 'Amazing Grace'.

CHURCHES TOGETHER  
IN CHESHIRE



The service material highlighted the history and continuing impact of slavery in the Caribbean and local concerns with the Modern Slavery in our midst were also acknowledged.



The Archbishop is here pictured in front of the banner from Frodsham Churches marking their efforts to combat Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

The Week of Prayer service next year, 2019, will be hosted by the churches of Tarporley.

## Rogationtide Celebration of Rural Life in Cheshire

There is to be a celebration of rural life and the economy of rural areas at **Chester Cathedral on Sunday 29 April at 3.00 pm.**

The preacher will be Bishop Libby Lane and people and organisations representing the rural life of the county and the diocese will be taking part.

All are welcome.



Thy Kingdom Come is a prayer initiative led by the Church of England for evangelisation. It will be held between Ascension and Pentecost, which is Thursday 10th May to Sunday 20th May 2018.

2018 is the third year in which it has been held and it continues to grow, especially in its ecumenical reach of different churches and denominations involved. In particular both the Methodist and Roman Catholic

churches have a more formal part to play with some of their own dedicated resources and videos being produced for their national networks. Many other member churches of Churches Together in England have a national 'Champion' who has been appointed to facilitate communication, advice, resources and networking within their denomination along the lines of the advice from the Archbishop of Canterbury 'pray in your own way'.

The theme and logo *Thy Kingdom Come* is now established in many parts of the world as world networks of churches and denominations in nearly 60 countries are praying at the same time, using the Lord's Prayer with the intention of evangelisation. Resources are being produced in many different languages.

A key theme for individual Christians who #pledgetoprayer (Twitter thread) is 'Pray for Five'. Christians are praying for five people they know that at least one might become a follower of Jesus. *Thy Kingdom Come* is not prescriptive as to how that might happen and individual churches and groups of churches are encouraged to pray for their own ways of outreach.

Link to the website and resources: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>

Locally plans are being made for an ecumenical service in Chester Cathedral, on Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> May for which further details will be circulated and other Churches Together groups are being encouraged to plan what they can do in this period.

The Diocese of Chester would like to invite you to the following training events that focus on realising the potential of church buildings. **The events are open to all church denominations in the area (including Cheshire East and West, Wirral, Runcorn and Stockport). All events are free.** There are a limited number of places. Booking is essential

### **Explorers of Church Building Projects: Elworth**

Saturday 28th April 2018, 10.00 -12.00  
St Peter's Church Hall, Elworth

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/explorers-programme-developing-and-managing-a-church-hall-tickets-36540816566?aff=affiliate2>

Join us for a morning to hear first-hand the experience of the St Peter's Church designing their new hall in 2012 and their experience of successfully managing the hall over the last five years' experience. There will be opportunity to look around and ask questions.

### **Open Doors- opening your church building for visitors**

Tuesday 22nd May 2018, 10.00am-3.30pm  
Norton Priory Museum

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/open-doors-opening-your-church-building-for-visitors-tickets-42454267858>

A one day workshop exploring the practicalities and opportunities of creating a

better welcome and interpreting your church heritage for visitors. The day will include why a church may consider opening its doors to visitors, identifying great stories to tell, security and risk management, different interpretive approaches and promotion.

### **Explorers of Church Building Projects: Cheadle**

Thursday 14th June 2018, 10.--am-12.00pm  
All Hallows Church, Cheadle

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/explorers-programme-can-you-change-your-church-without-it-costing-you-a-penny-tickets-36273123890?aff=affiliate1>

Join us for a morning with All Hallows Church, Cheadle. Discover how you can change your church without it costing you a penny through support from local communities, groups and the local authority. The church will also share their experiences of fundraising.

### **Fundraising for projects- turning frustration into faith-filled fun and fellowship**

Monday 1st October 2018, 10.00am-  
3.30pm  
St John's Centre, Hartford

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dynamic-fundraising-turning-frustration-into-faith-filled-action-tickets-42743431755>

An interactive day exploring different ways and experiences of raising funds for church projects, and how the activity of raising funds can be a great tool for mission in itself. The day will include grants, public appeals, events, donors and in-kind help and collaborations.



**David Keane**  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner  
for Cheshire

## **Cheshire Constabulary, Cinnamon Network and the local church**

Cinnamon Network is delighted to be partnering with Cheshire Constabulary to be able to support local churches across Cheshire, to show Jesus' love in action. The Police and Crime Commissioner for Cheshire has agreed to provide funding for 10 micro-grants to enable Cheshire churches to run a Cinnamon Recognised social action project. Cinnamon Network aims to make it as easy as possible for local churches to transform their communities by reaching out and building life-giving relationships with those in greatest need.

The Police & Crime Commissioner, Mr David Keane, will be one of the guest speakers at the launch event which will provide you with the opportunity to find out about Cheshire's policing priorities and the five ways that Cinnamon Network can support you through this partnership.

### **Come to the launch event to hear first-hand how your church can be involved**

The partnership will be launched on **Tuesday 24th April at The Lion Salt Works, Ollershaw Lane, Marston, Northwich, CW9 6ES**

The event is from 10am - 12.00 noon, refreshments and buffet lunch provided

**Please save this date.**

To book your place and register for the event :

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cinnamon-network-cheshire-constabulary-demand-reduction-partnership-launch-tickets-43385777027>



## **Chester Mystery Plays**

**27<sup>th</sup> June – 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 in the nave of Chester Cathedral**

A rare and treasured part of Britain's cultural heritage, the Chester Mystery Plays are returning to Chester to be performed by a community cast of hundreds. Tales of ambition, intrigue, betrayal and passion drawn from iconic Bible stories are guaranteed to enrapture, astound and delight. For more information, to view the seating plan and to book tickets visit:

[chestermysteryplays.com](http://chestermysteryplays.com)

## **A New Framework for Local Unity in Mission**

Last year an 'exciting, significant, practical, ecumenical document' came to fruition. *A New Framework for Local Unity in Mission* was published after extensive consultation. This major piece of work marks a change in the understanding of unity work at local level.



The document was approved by Churches Together in England's [Enabling Group](#) which asked for further work to be done. The initial stage of this work has now been completed and *A guide to understanding 'A New Framework for Local Unity in Mission'* has now been published.

The guide stresses that *A New Framework* is a process, a shift in thinking. It liberates possibilities, allowing creativity, self-expression and joyful fulfilment. Properly understood, it is a springboard for innovation and creativity, beginning with what is needed in a situation and encouraging light-touch, yet prudent and appropriate structures.

The *Guide to Understanding* makes explicit what has often been implicit, recognising the missional imperative of unity work at local level: "...deeply rooted in Christian tradition is the idea that we are judged by our fruits: 'If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit.' Mission is the fruit of unity and unity the fruit of mission."

- [Read more about A New Framework for Local Unity in Mission](#) and download [the full text](#).
- Download [A guide to understanding 'A New Framework for Local Unity in Mission'](#)
- Download the [Explanatory Note](#)

## Germinate! 2018 conference for rural mission and ministry.



Through key note speakers, case studies

and workshops, the 2018 Germinate Conference will explore what it means for rural Christians to do more than belong to their churches and communities. Both inspiring and practical, the day will bring together individuals, churches, agencies and networks involved in rural mission and ministry.

**Saturday 13 October 2018: 9.30am-4pm**

The Welcome Centre, 47 Parkside, Coventry, CV1 2HG

### Keynote speakers:

The Rt Revd Dr David Walker, Bishop of Manchester. Bishop David is the President of the Rural Theology Association. Revd Claire Maxim, CEO, Germinate. Claire is Germinate's new CEO.

### Workshops

- Open Welcome: using our buildings for mission
- What do our buildings say about us?
- Rural Fresh Expressions: beginning with listening
- How might we rediscover the value of mission as a dialogue, listening to both culture and God, in order to understand what is the good news for our rural communities?
- Making the most of Rural Mission Sunday, an opportunity to celebrate the rural church and encourage opportunities to share faith.
- Effective Church Communications
- How to communicate successfully with your rural community.
- Shared Ministry: the Cumbria story
- How can we really work together and share ordained ministry across denominations?
- Discerning Gifts: facilitating shared ministry
- How can we help members of our congregations to discern their gifts?

- Discipleship in Messy Church
- Discover more about building a Christ-centred community with a focus on forming new disciples.

More information about Germinate 2018: <http://germinate.net/training/germinateconference/germinate-conference-2018/>

## Jacob's Ladder



The Jacob's Ladder group originated from a successful public workshop, held in February 2017 at Chester Cathedral, which explored how members of the local community might provide a welcoming response to families who have fled conflict in Syria and resettles in Cheshire West and Chester as part of the UNHCR programme.

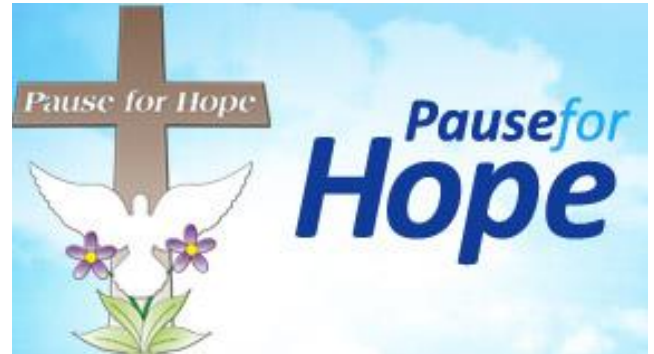
The group promotes awareness of the refugee situation and a positive narrative to counter that frequently prevalent in the media. Many of the families have a Muslim faith and the group seeks links with the Muslim community to foster good local relationships.

The group has

- Hosted the 'I welcome' photo exhibition of 30 evocative panels telling the big story of the global refugee crisis
- Worked with Chester cathedral towards becoming a Cathedral of Sanctuary

- Supported workshops focussing on refugees
- Contributed to activities during Refugee Week in June
- Raised awareness of the refugee situation within the local community.

## Pause for Hope



The annual Pause for Hope service will this year be held in Chester Cathedral on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> June at 3.00 pm. As usual the service will seek:

- To pray that the day will quickly come when all cancers can be prevented or cured
- to bring together in prayer those affected by all forms of cancer, their loved ones, carers and all involved in providing treatment and support.
- to remember dear ones lost to cancer
- to pray for those with responsibility for providing and allocating resources required in the investigation, treatment and care of patients with cancer
- to help those affected to understand the Christian value of suffering and

that the prayers of the sick and those who look after them have great power with God

- to help those who don't have cancer but have a great fear of the disease
- to reach out to those who are at home or in hospital as patients or carers and unable to attend the Pause for Hope services.

At the service members of all religious dominations and faiths are welcome as well as those with little or no religious faith.

## Salt Sunday



**Salt Sunday is being held again at the Lion Salt Works, Marston on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> May.**

This is an afternoon for all the family, with talks, demonstrations, children's activities and worship. Please mark the date and further details will be circulated very soon.

## Can you add up?

Derek Pearce, who for over ten years now has been the Assistant Treasurer, managing the day to day finances and the accounts of Churches Together in Cheshire has

indicated that he is now looking forward to hanging up his quill pens and ledgers. Are you able to help us, or do you know someone who might?

The remit of Churches Together in Cheshire covers the work both of the Ecumenical Development Officer and the Agricultural Chaplaincy, the latter comprising the greater element of the work. If you are interested please contact Andrew Taylor, address at the foot of this page, for more details.

## Easter....

...approaches and many churches and groups will be planning local acts of witness. We pray for all those occasions when the Good News of Easter can be shared. Any pictures received could be included in the...

## Next Edition

The next issue of the Newsletter will be in June. If you have any items you would like to be included, especially reports relating to local Easter acts of witness, please send them in by 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2018.

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